



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 12, 2007

### **H.R. 798**

#### **A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to install a photovoltaic system for the headquarters building of the Department of Energy**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
on February 7, 2007*

H.R. 798 would require the General Services Administration to install a solar energy (photovoltaic) system on the side of the headquarters building of the Department of Energy (DOE) located in Washington, DC. Photovoltaic systems use solar power technology to convert energy from the sun into electricity. The project would consist of a “sun wall” of almost 25,000 solar panels that would provide some electricity and hot water to the building. The legislation would direct the use of \$30 million in unobligated balances in the Federal Buildings Fund beginning in fiscal year 2008 to install the system.

Currently, the Federal Buildings Fund has unobligated balances of over \$2 billion available for construction and repair and alteration of federal buildings. Legislation that modifies the expected spending pattern of those balances would be considered a change in direct spending but would not increase budget authority. Based on information from DOE, CBO estimates that spending for this project would cost \$6 million in 2008 and \$30 million over the 2008-2012 period. However, we also estimate that this project would not affect net federal outlays over the 2008-2012 period because spending on this project would be offset by decreased spending later in that period.

H.R. 798 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.